2/13/02-

Attorney's Docket No. 00330-823

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

)
) Group Art Unit: (unassigned)
) Examiner: (unassigned)
)
) ) )

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified Application, filed concurrently herewith, as indicated.

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace dependent Claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) A liquid crystal device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for applying an electric field over said AFLC material, the liquid crystal device thereby being an electrooptic liquid crystal device, wherein said AFLC material being

uniaxial negative in a zero-field state (E=0).